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Chief, FBIB

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Value of London Roundups in Washington.

1. Internal FBIB:

a. To Editorial Division, roundups are useful as check-list of top broadcasts to insure proper treatment in Daily Report.

b. To Special Reports, Russian Roundups of great value on Thursdays and Fridays as last-hour check on significant developments; on a daily basis it is also the only source of information on multiple beaming of Soviet broadcasts.

c. These purposes would be served equally well by a log of the London file transmitted every eight hours similar to the East Coast and Western Bureau logs, provided that data on multiple beaming were included. Such a substitution would presumably effect a saving of man-hours in London, which might well be utilized for editorial improvement (rather than addition of wordages) to the file.

2. User Offices:

a. IED insists on getting the Russian roundup by wire, agreeing reluctantly to airmail for the others.

b. A survey of recipients of the restricted Daily Report shows only scattered interest in the roundups among Western European desks. Eastern European divisions, however, are unanimous in preferring the roundups in present or modified form to increased textual wordage. A heavy incidence of voluntary comment and suggestion indicates genuine interest.

3. Conclusions:

a. From consumer standpoint, roundups must be continued.

b. The consumer survey did not differentiate among the Russian, German and satellite roundups. Remarks and comment, however, suggest that conclusion a may apply categorically only to the Russian roundup, and that a compromise elimination of the satellite roundup, or even of the German, would not be a serious loss to consumers. Definition of this possibility, however, would require further consultation with user offices.

c. A more complete summary of survey results is being prepared for dispatch this week.

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